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## Today@NPS /October 2015

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## Today@NPS - October 2015

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Today@NPS showcases some of the speakers, conferences, experiments, lectures, and other events that take place at the Naval Postgraduate School on a daily basis. If you would like more information about any of the highlighted activities please contact the public affairs office at [pao@nps.edu](mailto:pao@nps.edu). To view more stories visit the [Today at NPS archive](#). NPS' photo galleries and graduation pictures can be found on the [Photo Gallery - Collections page](#).



U.S. Navy photo by Javier Chagoya

### NPS Says Farewell to Historian, Union Leader

By Kenneth A. Stewart

Dudley Knox Library Special Collections Manager and unofficial NPS Historian John Sanders and his wife Linda share a toast during his retirement ceremony on the Herrmann Hall Quarterdeck, Oct. 30. Sanders has been an NPS mainstay, and one of the institution's staunchest supporters, for more than three decades.

"There are a lot of things I am going to miss about NPS," said Sanders. "There's the camaraderie, and this remarkable historic property that we have. But I think at the very top, I will miss seeing the people who work so diligently at shaping the future with such an amazing level of commitment. I will miss being a part of that purpose and motivation."

Sanders came to NPS as a writer/editor with the Public Affairs Office in 1984, and served in various public affairs capacities for 24 years. Throughout his long career on campus, he has seen administrators, professors, students and colleagues come and go, and bravely battled, and won, a lengthy fight with cancer. He has done everything from helping a popular cartoonist launch his career to impersonating Bob Hope. But, Sanders says, one thing he is most proud of is his contribution to educational initiatives like the former Discovery Day program.

"We had some 5,000 kids here exploring science and technology," recalled Sanders. "Discovery Day was for the curious and imaginative. It captured what NPS was able to do for this community."

"As much as anything, it's the laughter in this place [that makes it special]," Sanders continued. "If you let yourself feel it, NPS resounds with the laughter of so many people, like Bob Hope who came here to entertain troops after WWII. These buildings echo with joy of those times."

October 30, 2015



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Shawn J. Stewart

### NPS Welcomes New Deputy Dean of Students

By MC2 Shawn J. Stewart

Newly-appointed Deputy Dean of Students Cmdr. Paul Rasmussen, left, is pictured with outgoing Deputy Dean of Students Cmdr. Alex Mabini, right, in the International Flag Garden, Oct. 28. Rasmussen comes to NPS from the U.S. Naval War College where he served as a military professor in the National Security Affairs Department.

"It's an honor to come to this respected institution," said Rasmussen. "My goals are to keep focused on one of NPS' core missions, which is educating officers and civilians in order to lead an innovative and effective joint force."

"NPS is in good hands with Paul, he brings a fresh set of eyes to the processes," added Mabini.

Rasmussen is looking forward to continuing where Mabini left off.

"I've been here for three days and I can already tell I've got some big shoes to fill," said Rasmussen. "[Mabini] has made a big difference during his time at NPS and I look forward to continuing his legacy by focusing on the students and producing highly-educated leaders."

Mabini soon leaves NPS for Okinawa, Japan, where he will serve as the plans officer at Expeditionary Strike Group 7.

October 29, 2015

### Marine Corps Students Continue MOTO Effort at Central Coast High

By MC1 Lewis Hunsaker

NPS student and Motivating Others Through Outreach (MOTO) co-program manager Marine Corps Capt. Heather Pelachick, center, addresses a class at Central Coast High School (CCHS), Oct. 26. The MOTO program provides at-risk youth the opportunity to work with an NPS mentor.

"Some of these kids are in a very disadvantaged environment and we want them to have every opportunity to graduate," said Pelachick. "At the end of last year, five students were in danger of not graduating. We shifted our focus and used MOTO to help these students catch-up on classes, and everyone graduated on time."



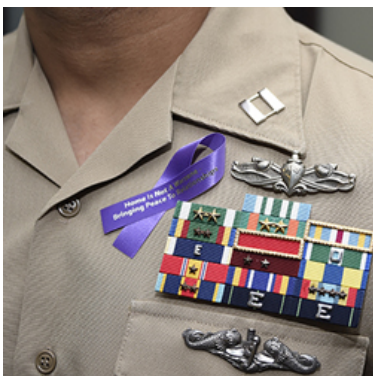
U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Lewis Hunsaker

MOTO is now in its third year. It was initially limited to USMC students, however, the program will be expanding volunteer opportunities to everyone at NPS in January 2016.

"This program has helped the students tremendously. The mentors help the students focus on assignments while giving them someone to look up to," said CCHS Math Teacher Virginia Devaux.

Next year MOTO is planning a field trip for CCHS students to NPS, where mentors hope to introduce their students to NPS' various Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) opportunities, as well as the RoboDojo.

October 28, 2015



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Ehrlich

### NPS, NSAM Support Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By MC2 Michael Ehrlich

Throughout the month of October, you may have seen these purple ribbons around campus in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, encouraging students, faculty and staff to spread the word about the services provided by the Navy's family advocacy programs.

Officials at Naval Support Activity Monterey's Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) say the effort is critical to stopping the violence.

"The military is taking an increasingly serious look at domestic violence," said FFSC Clinical Counselor and Case Manager Guy Sartee. "Making a month toward awareness and prevention is very helpful ... because no one is exempt throughout all the ranks."

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month is an annual observance that generates awareness of domestic violence as a serious public health issue, and the resources available to help prevent and address it. The Family Advocacy Program, a Department of Defense program, provides domestic and child abuse prevention efforts, early identification and intervention support for victims, and treatment for offenders.

Helping couples develop healthy relationship skills is a key violence prevention strategy for the Family Advocacy Program. As a result, the Navy's 2015 observance of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month emphasize addressing domestic violence as a shared community responsibility to prevent, recognize and report domestic violence.

For more information, check out the [Family Advocacy Program](#) website.

October 27, 2015



U.S. Navy photo by Javier Chagoya

### NPS Engineer Issued Patent on AC/DC Motor Technology

By Javier Chagoya

L. Warren Rogers, an electrical engineer with the NPS Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, holds a copy of the U.S. patent he was recently awarded, Oct. 14. His innovative approach to converting alternating current (AC) power into direct current (DC) power for a variable speed DC motor could have far-reaching impact in the Navy and beyond.

"Alternating current motors are used throughout the fleet because of their rugged construction and nearly maintenance free operation," explained Rogers. "And it's this very attribute that makes room for even better improvements in reducing energy consumption, since the Navy is exploring and acting on the possibilities of DC distribution systems. There exists a need for a simple, reliable three-phase voltage source inverter, or VSI-powered, induction machine," said Rogers.

His investigations into simple and reliable, hardware-centered, VSI controllers led him to develop a new scheme, one without software or field-programmable gate arrays, that he says is scalable, simple, and can be used in many motorized appliances.

"People can finally experience the variable speed DC motors provide without the maintenance and environmental baggage that comes with them by switching to an AC motor with my patented device that provides the variable frequency and amplitude power the motor requires," said Rogers. "Three phase motors might also find their way, with my patented VSI, into dishwashers, dryers, washing machines and even counter-top appliances."

October 26, 2015

### CRUSER Director Briefs Regional Higher Ed Leadership

By MC2 Michael Ehrlich

Consortium for Robotics and Unmanned Systems Education and Research Director Dr. Ray Buettner, left, and NPS Acting Provost Dr. Jim Newman, right, stand beside a ScanEagle unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) on display in the Marriott Hotel Monterey, Oct. 23, during the Monterey County Business Council's Higher Education Leadership Summit. Buettner was on hand to brief attendees on some of the university's latest research efforts, in addition to NPS' continuing partnerships with institutions of higher education around the Peninsula.

Buettner's presentation shed light on varied aspects of unmanned aerial vehicle research at NPS, and discussed how the Joint Interagency Field Experimentation program (JIFX) and CRUSER support the Peninsula's academic communities.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Ehrlich

"[The MCBC summit] is an excellent opportunity for us to help the public, who we work for and support, understand the unique role and mission of the Naval Postgraduate School," said Buettner.

"While militarily focused, NPS is a full spectrum university engaged in a variety of activities that make us natural partners with CSUMB, MIIS and other educational entities on the Peninsula," he added. "We can work together with the community to create a capability that can serve all of our citizens."

October 23, 2015



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Lewis Hunsaker

### NPS Hall of Famer Shares His Navy Story

By MC1 Lewis Hunsaker

NPS Hall of Fame member and retired Navy Adm. Henry H. Mauz Jr., shares lessons learned from his storied Navy career with members of the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) Alumni Association Monterey Bay Chapter during a presentation at Monterey Pines Golf Course, Oct. 21.

"When Mauz was the Commanding Officer of a minesweeper he realized that he needed his crew a whole lot more than they needed him," said USNA Chapter President Lt. Ross Hammerer during his introduction. "That's something we need to recognize on a regular basis. You are only as good as the people that work for you."

But that would prove to be just one of many life lessons that Mauz relied upon throughout his career.

"You never have all the answers, in the fleet or in life, but you have to make the best decision with what you have," said Mauz. "I learned how to do that partly here [at NPS] and partly in the fleet."

Mauz also offered insight into the personal philosophy that he lives by – a philosophy that was shaped in part by the time he spent in various commands aboard river patrol boats, the minesweeper USS Prime (MSO 466), and the guided-missile destroyer USS Semmes (DDG 18).

"I encourage everyone to take calculated risks. It's ok. You won't win them all, but make sure you have done your homework," he said. "Have integrity, if you don't tell your boss that he is doing something wrong then nothing is going to change. Stand up for what is right."

"Also, have a good sense of humor," he continued. "Be a good spirit, and smile even when it hurts ... No one wants to work for a grouch."

October 22, 2015



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Ehrlich

### Contract Management Specialists Honored With Meritorious Service Medals

By MC2 Michael Ehrlich

Contract and Grant Specialist Riza Gandia, left, and Contracts Administration Specialist Cynthia Vida, right, proudly wear their Meritorious Service Award medals following their receipt of the honor, Oct. 15. Through their efforts in the Contracting and Logistics Management directorate, they have collectively saved NPS more than \$3.4 million in interest.

"I was quite surprised to have been awarded the Meritorious Service Award," said Gandia. "I thank God always for his blessings for me and my family. I dedicate myself to give 100 percent and more to any task given to me. I would like to especially thank [Contracting and Logistics Management] Director Patricia Hirsch for trusting and believing in me to be the best at what I do."

NPS Chief of Staff Capt. Anthony Parisi presented the medals noting, "This is a small token of our appreciation. Everything good that happens at NPS comes through your office."

"What an honor," added Vida. "This just goes to show that my hard work and efforts do not go unnoticed."

October 21, 2015

### Outreach Efforts Pick Up STEAM at Colton Middle School

By Javier Chagoya

NPS National Reconnaissance Office Chair and former NASA astronaut, retired Capt. Dan Bursch, far right, is greeted by an enthusiastic group of 7th and 8th grade students from Monterey's Walter Colton Middle School, Oct. 15. Bursch, along with three former NPS interns, Amara Borchers, Stephen Edgar, and Carson Vogt, traveled to the school as part of a community outreach effort that cultivates interest into the traditional STEM disciplines, as well as the Arts, known as STEAM.

"Mathematics is the language of physics and allows you to solve problems. Knowing physics and how machines are designed empowered humans to get into space," said Bursch.

He described different phases of the Space Shuttle launch sequence, Earth orbiting maneuvers, and even his own adventures into





U.S. Navy photo by Javier Chagoya

space, including his 2001-2002, six-and-a-half-month stay on the International Space Station. Bursch also talked to the class about two instances when things didn't go quite as planned, and used the events as life lessons.

"On two separate shuttle launches, we had to abort take off at the very final seconds of the count down. What that means is that many of the rocket engine parts have to be refitted, and that takes up to six weeks, so you can imagine how that can be a bit unnerving," Bursch explained. "But, you still have to gather yourself up, prepare for the next time and be ready to face the challenge."

Bursch also brought his personal set of space working gloves and passed them around in a show-and-tell to the students, who marveled at the chance to slide their hands into the special gloves.

"I really think that some of these kids have it in them to reach for the stars and make their dreams of doing great things come true one day," said Caroline Wormley, a teacher at Colton Middle School.

Gaining momentum nationally, the STEAM movement looks to integrate art and design into the center of traditional STEM programs, encouraging the emphasis of these disciplines into traditional K-20 education.

October 20, 2015



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Lewis Hunsaker

### NPS, NSAM Celebrate Navy's 240th Birthday

By MC1 Lewis Hunsaker

NPS student and guest speaker Army Maj. Dennis "DJ" Skelton addresses university students, faculty, staff and guests during the 240th U.S. Navy Birthday Ball in the Barbara McNitt Ballroom, Oct. 17. The theme for this year's celebration was "Ready Then, Ready Now, Ready Always."

"I have had many highs and lows in my career, but I would have never guessed that I would stand before you at this prestigious event. The honor is truly mine," said Skelton. "When I was asked to speak at this event, I thought a lot about the theme 'Ready Then, Ready Now, Ready Always.'"

Skelton was severely wounded in November 2004 while leading a rifle platoon in close combat in Fallujah, Iraq. Since his recovery, he has dedicated himself to advancing the causes of wounded veterans. He is the author of "Our Hero Handbook," a comprehensive guide to assisting wounded service members and their families.

"We have come a long way. I was very proud to witness that our military has figured it out ... We weren't ready at a time that we needed to be, but we did what we needed to do to acquire the resources, to write the policies, and to give the military commands the resources they needed to take care of our wounded warriors," said Skelton.

But for Skelton, taking care of wounded warriors was not enough. He advocates for full inclusion of wounded service members wherever appropriate.

In 1972, then Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt authorized recognition of Oct. 13 as the Navy's birthday. Since then, each CNO has encouraged a Navy-wide celebration of the occasion to enhance a greater appreciation of our Navy heritage, and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service.

October 19, 2015



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Shawn J. Stewart

### Deputy Secretary of the Navy International Programs Addresses Students

By MC2 Shawn J. Stewart

NPS alumnus and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy International Programs (NIPD) Rear Adm. James Shannon takes a question from Lt. Jeffrey Miller after a Secretary of the Navy Guest Lecture (SGL) in King Auditorium, Oct. 15. Shannon took some tough questions from students in addition to meeting with NPS faculty and perusing student theses.

"If a guy in my position can't answer tough questions, then neither he nor I belong in this position," said Shannon. "I'm glad the students challenged me. They asked great questions ... and they were topical which tells me that they are really doing their homework here."

Throughout Shannon's address to students he discussed leadership and current trends in international programs. He also shared fond memories of his time at NPS noting that it was not too long ago that he was on the other side of the lectern.

"I'm an alumnus of this fine institution, [being here] is like coming home," said Shannon. "I look out into the audience and I remember the student body that I served with ... I'm glad the energy is still here."

Finally, Shannon spoke about the value that NPS offers the Navy, referring to the institution as one of the Navy's "three crown jewels" noting its place among the Naval Academy and the Naval War College.

"We have to take care of and nurture these institutions and make sure we are sending all of our best and brightest to them. They will take the world's greatest Navy far into the future," he said.

October 16, 2015

### NPS Physics Professor Named Fellow by American Physical Society

By MC2 Michael Ehrlich



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Ehrlich

NPS Professor of Physics Gamani Karunasiri is pictured at his Spanagel Hall office, Oct. 14. Karunasiri was recently named an American Physical Society (APS) fellow. He is well known for his work developing quantum detectors and micro-sensors.

"I was not expecting this," said Karunasiri who was made a fellow after his first nomination to the APS. Only .5 percent of APS members are named fellows. Karunasiri is the second NPS professor to earn the distinction.

"I'm an experimentalist working primarily on sensors in three different areas, one of which is THz imaging [similar to the scanners used by airports]," said Karunasiri. "I think we have created a very good sensor. Now we need to package it for field use."

Karunasiri has mentored five PhD students, supervised more than forty master's students, and co-supervised many others.

"They are the next generation. I need to train them to do research properly. That is why I always go down to the lab to participate with them," said Karunasiri. "It is important for them to think independently. I guide them in the beginning and then let them carry [the work] forward."

October 15, 2015



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Shawn J. Stewart

### NSA Advances Regional Expertise with Trio of New Faculty

By MC2 Shawn J. Stewart

New NPS Department of National Security Affairs (NSA) Assistant Professors Diego Esparza, left, Covell Meyskens, center, and Rachel Sigman, right, are pictured outside Herrmann Hall, Oct. 7. Esparza, Meyskens and Sigman were all recently hired by the NSA Department.

"I think that my impact will be grounded in two things," said Esparza, an expert in Latin America studies. "I will provide students with different perspectives on how to analyze and understand the world ... [and] my expertise in policing will serve to help our armed forces understand issues of public security and social order."

Sigman hopes to draw upon her expertise in Africa studies to help NPS students to understand the effects of political competition on state capacity in African democracies.

"In addition to providing an exciting learning environment for my students, I am looking forward to finding ways to apply my research in a manner that will enrich the operations of the Navy and the [Department of Defense]," said Sigman.

Meyskens is looking forward to having a positive impact on his students.

"As a historian, my goal is to provide students with the tools to think about contemporary global issues in a historically informed manner," said Meyskens. "How did Europe come to be a dominant global force over the past few centuries? How did Europe's rise affect other parts of the world? These and other big historical questions are what I work through with students in class."

The NSA Department specializes in the study of international relations, security policy, and regional studies and brings together students from across the DOD in an effort to encourage critical thinking and intellectual independence.

October 14, 2015



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Brian H. Abel

### NPS Students Participate in Arizona Garden Rehab

By MC3 Brian H. Abel

NPS students and staff members plant cacti at the Arizona Garden, Oct. 9. The historic Arizona Garden is a cultural site at NPS, which requires constant upkeep.

"The garden is about 100 years old," said Environmental Program Director Johanna Turner. "Events like this make it sustainable, and an event like this once a year would make this garden amazingly beautiful."

Turner and the rest of her staff expressed their gratitude to the volunteers that contributed time and sweat to the project.

"We're so grateful for all of the military and civilian staff that showed up today. It makes a huge difference," said Turner. "We've won many environmental awards in the past ... and [the garden] will be an award nominee for the next round of cultural resource awards."

The Arizona Garden is part of the historic register. It was created by famed Landscape Architect Rudolph Ulrich, who traveled throughout the country by train collecting species for the Garden and other projects.

October 13, 2015

### Space Systems Professor Assumes Position of Acting Provost

By Dale M. Kuska

Space Systems Academic Group (SSAG) Professor James H. Newman, pictured during this week's Faculty Council meeting, officially assumed the position of Acting Provost, Oct. 5. As he steps into his new role on campus, he noted his first order of business is to continue the efforts of former university Provost Dr. Douglas A. Hensler, who retired from the institution in early October to spend more time with his family.

"My first responsibility is to continue Provost Hensler's work as Provost and Academic Dean, in particular, to maintain the academic standards and accreditation at NPS," Newman said. "There is much the Provost is expected to do, but at the core of this responsibility is supporting the education of our Navy and Marine Corps officers, and their joint service and international colleagues, especially in our current times of fairly stringent fiscal and budgetary constraints."



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Brian H. Abel

Newman has been an enthusiastic teacher and researcher on campus in his role as Professor and Associate Chair of the SSAG especially in the fields of small satellites and orbital mechanics. While his new responsibilities of Acting Provost will dominate his time, he does still intend to continue some teaching and research in space systems.

"While Acting Provost, I intend to keep up with the Space Systems program here at NPS," Newman said. "My teaching and applied research in the fields of very small satellites is important to me and valuable for the Navy, and I will continue to work with thesis students and the research in the lab whenever possible."

For more information, check out the full story on the [NPS.edu](http://NPS.edu).

October 9, 2015



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Ehrlich

### Director of Naval History Details Sinking of South Korean Corvette

By MC2 Michael Ehrlich

Director of Naval History retired Rear Adm. Samuel Cox discusses his investigation of the sinking of the South Korean vessel Cheonan (PCC-722) during the latest Secretary of the Navy Guest Lecture in King Auditorium, Oct. 6. Cox earned the National Intelligence Exceptional Achievement Medal for leading the multinational investigation into the incident.

"History is incredibly valuable to understanding what is going to happen in the future," said Cox. "But don't hang everything on it, because there's a first time for everything. In fact, those things that you're not expecting are what you should be looking for."

Cox described the process by which he and his fellow investigators determined the truth behind who sunk the Cheonan.

"We ruled out every submarine in the world except for one," said Cox. "Only one submarine that exists on the planet, that we know of, could have been at the scene of the crime."

According to Cox, that submarine was one of the North Korean Reconnaissance General Bureau's (RGB) Yono Class midget submarines. The RGB is responsible for covert operations involving reconnaissance, technology and cyber, overseas intelligence and inter-Korean talks.

"The [RGB] does traces, intelligence gathering, abductions of people around the world, assassinations and terrorist attacks," said Cox, who added that the RGB's resume didn't include torpedo attacks against their rival to the South, until the sinking of the Cheonan.

October 8, 2015



U.S. Navy photo by Javier Chagoya

### LDOs in Rare Company in NPS' Student Ranks

By Javier Chagoya

Lt. Joseph Hake, left, pictured in the Glasgow Hall courtyard with Dr. Daniel Nussbaum of the Operations Research Department, is in rare company on the NPS campus. When the Fall quarter began, Hake was the only LDO out of the incoming class of 155 fellow students, and is one of just two LDO students onboard out of a population of 720 resident Naval officers.

An LDO is an officer promoted from the Navy enlisted ranks with no interruption in their active duty status. Hake is a cryptologist by trade and now serves as an Information Warfare Officer. Starting out as an E-1 himself, Hake believes that it's important to encourage and support Sailors to climb the ladder of success in the Navy's ranks and beyond.

"I enjoy helping others to advance in their careers while in the Navy ... I helped mentor one of my chiefs back at [the National Security Agency], who is now a student at NPS," said Hake. "She submitted a request to attend NPS' Master of Science in Applied Cyber Operations (MACO) and was promptly accepted."

October 7, 2015





Photo courtesy Lt. Jeffrey Miller

### Homeland Security Students Observe Alameda's Urban Shield Exercise

By MC3 Brian H. Abel

Officers from the Alameda County Sheriff's Department prepare to conduct a boarding exercise at San Pablo Bay, Calif., Sept. 13, part of Urban Shield 2015. Navy students enrolled in NPS' homeland security and defense curriculum were on site, offered the opportunity to observe the real-world scenarios first hand.

"When we signed up for the event we had no idea what we were getting into," said Lt. Jeffrey Miller. "They had about 35 to 37 scenarios in the Pleasanton and surrounding Oakland areas."

Miller said he was impressed by the realism of the scenarios, and the coordination that occurred between both U.S. and foreign law enforcement professionals at the event.

"They had SWAT teams from not only the U.S., but from all over the world," said Miller. "The interoperability between the SWAT teams and seeing them learn from each other was great to watch."

The Alameda County Sheriff's Department's annual Urban Shield training exercise is designed to ensure local law enforcement agencies are prepared to respond to a domestic threat or terrorist attack. Urban Shield improves regional disaster response capabilities, while also providing a platform for national and international first responders, as well as the private sector, to work efficiently and effectively together when critical incidents occur.

October 6, 2015



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Ehrlich

### Robo Dojo Hosts First Meeting of the Robotics Club

By MC2 Michael Ehrlich

Associate Professor Timothy Chung and Lecturer Kristen Tsolis host the first meeting of NPS' Robotics Club in the Robo Dojo laboratory, Sept. 30. The Robotics Club is looking to establish a community setting for students, faculty and staff to explore advancements in robotics and mechatronics.

"The Robo Dojo is an open community venue where people can gain real hands-on experiences, and collaborate with people from many different departments," said Tsolis. "So much research at NPS is stove-piped. We are providing a venue where people can meet, work together and learn from each other."

"We have had a lot of requests to work with schools and kids of all ages," added Chung. "There are already robotics clubs at several high schools; Monterey Peninsula College has begun a robotics curriculum, and CSUMB has a computer science club focused on robotics."

During his introduction to attendees, Chung described two goals he has high hopes for in the robotics club will create.

"I imagine this club could be a social opportunity to learn from their peers," said Chung. "The other area is to foster the mentality of tinkering and learning from the local hotspots we can touch base with."

"We are not that far from the biggest of tinker spaces, Silicon Valley. But, there are tech and space shops we have begun to establish really good relationships with, so we can look do those kinds of field trips as well."

October 5, 2015



U.S. Navy photo by Javier Chagoya

### Intel Officer Assumes Command at Fleet Numerical

By Javier Chagoya

Capt. R. Russell Smith, left, renders a salute, accepting command of Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center from Capt. John A. Okon, right, during a Change of Command ceremony held at the Navy's weather forecasting center, Sept. 23. Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command Rear Adm. Timothy Gallaudet presided over the ceremony.

Okon, a 2003 graduate of NPS, served two years as FNMOC's commanding officer and was praised by Gallaudet for his leadership, innovation and accomplishments.

"During Captain Okon's watch, he spearheaded the FNMOC distributive processing or cloud computing project, and earned the gold standard of cyber security assurance during this past inspection," said Gallaudet.

"He transformed this unit's moral under his watch. He led my efforts of integrating our portion of the Information Dominance Corps in the support of our intelligence community's mission ... keeping the fleet safe. He is my most trusted and effective CO," Gallaudet continued.

Incoming Commanding Officer Smith will be the first Intelligence Officer to take over the fleet's forecasting facility, as he brings a fresh view with his experience in the field of Information Dominance and intelligence.

"Every Navy ship that sails, every aircraft that launches from the deck of a carrier, relies on your tireless efforts ... It is vital to the military's ability to fight and win our nation's wars when called upon to do so," said Smith. "The timely and accurate, and penetrating understanding you provide to the fleet of the battle space gives us a tremendous advantage over our potential adversaries from the bottom of the oceans to the reaches of space."

October 2, 2015

### NPS Student Demonstrates LSO Training Through Virtual Reality

By MC3 Brian H. Abel





U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Brian H. Abel

NPS student Lt. Clay Greunke demonstrates the virtual environment training system he developed to prepare inexperienced Landing Signal Officers (LSO), deploying to aircraft carriers for the first time, during a presentation in the Modeling, Virtual Environments and Simulation (MOVES) Institute, Sept. 23.

"The first time you go to the aircraft carrier, you have no idea what's going on. Planes are going by, people are screaming, people are running across the flight deck ... You don't know what to cross, when to cross, what you can and can't do, you are just holding on to the person who's leading you with dear life so you don't get hit," said Greunke. "This sort of environment can help train people to at least raise that awareness of what is going on and the procedural flow, so when they go to the carrier, they're useful."

Greunke chose the LSO for his training platform due to his personal knowledge of the position's responsibilities. He says the LSO environment is a perfect candidate for mainstream, virtual reality training in the Navy.

"The LSO was a good test bed because they have an intense task," said Greunke. "LSOs, before they actually see the landing platform themselves, can at least experience some sort of cognizance of what is going in this circus of the carrier environment. Once you have that higher cognizance, maybe you are able to see something that doesn't look right and point it out to one of the other LSOs for safety."

Greunke's thesis, "Development of a Lightweight, Virtual Reality Trainer for the LSO Community," was honored with the Gary Kildall Award for Computing Innovation this past quarter. He will be heading to the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center to continue developing his system.

October 1, 2015

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